

DIXIE TRANSPORTATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (DTEC)
MINUTES
October 19, 2016

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Chris Hart, Ivins Mayor
Vice Chairman Jon Pike, St. George Mayor
Jimmie Hughes, St. George City
Zachary Renstrom, County Commissioner
Ken Sizemore, Santa Clara City Council
Jeff Turek, Washington City Council
Naghi Zeenati, Utah Transportation Commission, Region 4
Bette Arial, St. George City Council
Darrin LeFevre, Toquerville Mayor
Wayne Peterson, Leeds Mayor

OTHERS PRESENT

Myron Lee, Dixie MPO
Ron Whitehead, Washington County
Cameron Cutler, St. George City
Mike Shaw, Washington City
Stan Smith, Springdale Mayor
Arthur LeBaron, Hurricane City
Chuck Gillett, Ivins City
Jim McConnell, UDOT
Adam Snow, Congressman Stewart's Office
Courtney Brinkerhoff, Senator Hatch's Office
Bill Prescott, Sun River HOA
Mike Baessler, Sun River HOA
Doug Pearson, Sun River HOA
Megan Prescott, Sun River HOA
Erik Nilsson, Sun River HOA
Dean Cox, Citizen

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Chris Hart welcomed all in attendance and called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. It was established that a quorum existed for voting on action items.

INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made by all present.

BUSINESS

- a. Approval of Minutes – September 21, 2016 Meeting & September 28, 2016 Special Meeting

MOTION: Motion by Naghi Zeenati to Approve the Minutes from the September 21, 2016 DTEC Meeting and the September 28, 2016 Special DTEC Meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Bette Arial and carried by unanimous vote.

REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS

- a. JPAC Report

Ken Sizemore explained that the Joint Policy Advisory Committee (JPAC) meets every three (3) months. JPAC is comprised of a group of policy makers from various planning organizations across the state including the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). At their October 6, 2016 meeting, the executive director of the Mountain Lands Association of Governments reviewed transportation impact fee structures as well as explained differences between general fund taxation and fees for services. It was explained that Provo City is in a unique situation as a majority of their taxable land is actually non-taxable due to the Brigham Young University (BYU) campus residing there. Transportation funding needs are difficult to meet; as a result, Provo City has implemented a unique fee to make up for the shortfall of taxation.

Mr. Sizemore reported that the Utah Transportation Authority (UTA) is implementing new services in Northern Utah. In counties that passed the Proposition One (1) Tax, more weekend and off-peak hour services are being offered, as well as additional transit stations.

Lastly, it is often difficult for an individual to travel between their house and a bus stop. Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grants are federal grants assisting in helping residents connect the first and last mile transportation challenges.

- b. Washington County Resource Management Plan

Celeste Maloy was excused from the meeting and will present on the Resource Management Plan (RMP) at the following DTEC Meeting.

c. Growth in Washington

Mike Shaw presented a PowerPoint on current and future residential and commercial growth in Washington City. In 2000 the population was approximately 8,200; presently, the population is 24,000. The largest areas of residential growth have been in the Washington Fields and Green Springs areas. Warner Valley and Long Valley are projected to be areas of future residential growth.

Commercial growth areas have been identified as Exit Thirteen (13) and Green Springs. There is a proposed mile post eleven (11) interchange which is projected to have commercial growth should it be constructed. The interchange has been identified as a crucial project, to be completed within the next ten (10) years.

Merrill Road, which connects Washington Fields Road to Mall Drive, has been identified as another critical project.

(See attached presentation)

d. Growth in Hurricane

Arthur LeBaron presented a PowerPoint on current and future residential and commercial growth in Hurricane City. Residential construction has been steady; however, commercial growth has not been as prominent, with the exception of the Wyndham Hotel nearing completion.

Residential growth areas have been identified as Hurricane Fields, Hurricane Proper, Dixie Springs, and Sand Hollow. At least half of all building permits from Hurricane City are for Dixie Springs and Mr. LeBaron predicts within five (5) years Dixie Springs will be built out.

Since 2010, there has been an average growth rate of four point two percent (4.2%). The current population of Hurricane is 17,050. Overall, Hurricane City is approximately ten percent (10%) built out. Future goals for Hurricane City include continuing to build a mixture of residential and commercial developments; additional fine dining; continuation of farming; and capitalizing on recreation and tourism opportunities.

Several transportation planning needs were identified including the connection of SR-9 to the Southern Parkway as well as an environmental assessment being completed on Purgatory Road. There will be a public hearing held on Wednesday, November 16th at the UDOT Offices located on 5300 West from 3:30-7:00 p.m. to discuss Purgatory Road.

(See attached presentation)

e. Sun River HOA Request

Sun River resident Bill Prescott presented a PowerPoint regarding a Western Corridor Proposal. The Sun River HOA is requesting that the City of St. George evaluate and select an alternate route for the proposed Western Corridor which does not utilize Sun River Parkway and also removes Sun River Parkway as a segment of the Western Corridor on its Master Plan.

Mr. Prescott reported that an online survey conducted found that 992 Sun River residents opposed the proposed route, with thirty-two (32) voting in favor. Several concerns of the residents were: Sun River is a golf-cart oriented community; over 800 homes would be affected; the population is expected to grow by 2000 residents over the next two to three (2-3) years. Mr. Prescott went on to say that there are other alternatives that have not been examined that will have less impact on the community such as Plantations Drive or Black Rock Road.

Chairman Hart stated that, unfortunately, Sun River was built around a corridor that has been in a master transportation plan since the early 1990's. It is a home buyer's obligation to perform due diligence when deciding whether or not to purchase property. Chairman Hart questioned why it should be the obligation of taxpayers to pay for an alternative route when there is already a partially completed roadway.

Chairman Hart went on to explain that before a right-of-way can be acquired and built, it will need to be taken under advisement and studied further.

(See attached presentation)

f. Local Option Sales Tax

Mayor Pike reiterated that the Local Option Sales Tax will appear on the ballot, November 8th. All criteria has been met with the completion of a public hearing at the County Administration Building the previous night. There were speakers in support and opposition of the tax, and he reported that it was a great discussion. He went on to mention that St. George City is thirteen (13) years behind with road projects. If the tax does not pass, serious cut backs will likely have to be made so that transportation needs can be met.

St. George City has aired several educational radio ads in hopes of continuing to educate the public so that they can make an informed decision of whether or not to vote in favor of the tax.

Commissioner Renstrom stated that brochures with pros and cons of the Local Option Sales Tax were going to be mailed out along with ballots.

Chairman Hart provided a link to a Proposition One educational video done by the Community Education Chanel.

<http://southernutahlive.com/video/view/Proposition-One-Local-Option-Sales-Tax-2016-10-09>

UDOT/FHWA BUSINESS UPDATES

a. UDOT Updates

Jim McConnell stated that primary interstate roads are scheduled to be re-surfaced every seven (7) years. Currently, UDOT is working on the 1-15 mile post ten (10) widening and Mall Drive underpass. The project is being constructed from the top down; the new bridge/structure is built on top of the soil and then dug out after the fact in order to keep traffic flowing on I-15. There were several problems with the soil nails being too short and unable to stabilize the top portion of construction. In order to obtain the proper soil nails, there was a six (6) week delay. The project is set to be completed by Christmas of this year.

Upcoming projects include: the Springdale project which has now been split into two projects due to several environmental issues. The Rockville to Springdale portion will begin this winter, and the Springdale to Zion project will begin next fall.

The St. George Boulevard to Sunset Boulevard will be advertised for bid in September 2017, and will begin construction within the following two (2) months. The approximate cost of the Boulevard project will be \$50 million dollars.

Reconstruction of the St. George Boulevard and 1000 East Intersection to allow for better access to the I-15 interchange and Red Hills Parkway will be advertised for bid this December. It will cost approximately \$3 million dollars.

Rockville City has obtained approval from the Joint Highway Committee (JHC) to perform a structural rehabilitation on the historic Rockville Bridge. The construction bid will be advertised in October 2017.

A third northbound lane will be added from I-15 mile post twenty-two (22) to mile post twenty-eight (28) and will be advertised for bid in October 2017.

b. Federal Updates

Adam Snow reported that Congressman Stewart is still working on gaining support for the Judgement Fund Transparency Act, which would allow the public to see exactly how money is being spent from the treasury fund. Locally, Congressman Stewart has been working with the School Institutional Trust Lands Agreement (SITLA) for a parking structure in Springdale.

Courtney Brinkerhoff distributed a handout explaining all items Senator Hatch has been working on this year. Ms. Brinkerhoff reported that Senator Hatch is currently campaigning for colleges on the West Coast.

(See attached handout)

OTHER BUSINESS

No items were presented.

NEXT MEETING

COG: November 1, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

DTEC meeting: November 16, 2016 at 12:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

Having no other business, Chairman Hart adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Cheyenne Bentley